

REMARKS

I. Introduction

With the cancellation herein without prejudice of claim 16, claims 17, and 19 to 28 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank the Examiner for considering the previously filed Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449 paper, and cited references.

II. Allowed Claim

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claim 19 is allowed.

III. Indication of Allowable Subject Matter of Claim 24

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter included in claim 24.

In this regard, the Examiner will note that claim 24 has been rewritten herein in independent form, and that claims 17, 20 to 23, and 25 to 28 have been amended to depend from claim 24. Thus, it is believed and respectfully submitted that claims 17 and 20 to 28 are in condition for immediate allowance.

The remaining rejected claims have been canceled, thereby rendering moot the remaining claim rejection.

Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of the claims as previously presented in a continuation patent application. Further, any disclaimer that may have occurred during the prosecution of this application is expressly rescinded as regards any subsequently filed patent application.

IV. Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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